

THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE FOR
NEGROES IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Nothing has been found to indicate that public library service was being offered to Southern Negroes before the turn of the century. When such service did develop after 1900, it carried with it definite restrictions including a special separate branch or library which would be available only to Negroes or if the main library were used by Negroes, such patrons were segregated and/or separated.¹

In 1903 a first feeble effort was made by a Southern city to afford a segregated library to Negroes by contracting with an already established Negro college. In Memphis, Tennessee, The Cossitt (Public) Library made an arrangement with Lemoyne Institute through which Negroes could get public library service without their having to come to the main library. The Institute provided the space and the Cossitt Library provided the books and staff. This kind of arrangement established a pattern which many other Southern public libraries were to follow.²

¹Eliza Atkins Gleason, The Southern Negro and the Public Library (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941), p. 27.

²Ibid., pp. 27-28.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, the political leadership went so far as to get the State Legislature to pass a law in 1903, which would permit the city to use taxpayers' money for two different public library systems, one for white people and one for Negroes. Other cities in North Carolina and in other Southern states liked this idea and established this pattern which Gleason calls the independent Negro library.¹

In Galveston, Texas, the most feasible idea, in 1904, that occurred to the city fathers to separate and segregate Negroes in the public library was to arrange with the board of education to put a branch in the segregated Negro high school. Hence, the Negro branch located in the Negro school also became a form of segregated library service to be followed in the South.² Louisville, Kentucky was the first city in the South to hire a Negro librarian who was assigned to work from a bona fide branch which was established in a Negro neighborhood.³

Today Negro and white children are sharing library facilities in the same reading rooms and from the same book-mobiles in many libraries in the South. This marks a great

¹Ibid.

²Glynnell Shakleford Barnes, "A History of Public Library Service in Galveston, Texas, 1904-1955" (unpublished Master's thesis, School of Library Service, Atlanta University, 1957), p. 20.

³Gleason, op. cit.

change since Dr. Eliza Gleason's survey, published in 1941, reported that only four Southern communities were giving full services to Negroes and only twelve others were giving limited service to them and this was in separate reading rooms with partial library privileges. The Southern Regional Council's report in 1953 revealed that public library integration had made the following progress:

- (1) In fifty-nine cities and towns Negroes had free use of the main library.
- (2) Twenty-four communities gave limited service to Negroes in the main library.
- (3) In eleven localities in the South one or more branches were giving service to patrons regardless of race.¹

In 1961, the United States Civil Rights Commission asked the Congress of the United States, rather than the President, to act on the matter of integrating public libraries and urged that federal funds under the Library Services Act be withheld from those states that maintained segregated libraries with the aid of government finance.² Students in the Atlanta University School of Library Science, being interested in the services of the public library to Negroes, have produced 15 historical studies as Master's theses. In these studies

¹"No Segregation Here," Library Journal, LXXX (November 15, 1955), 2633-2634.

²Legislation Urged Against Segregated Libraries, Wilson Library Bulletin, XXXVI (November, 1961), 202.

efforts were made to determine what, if any, legal instruments have been used as bases for denying Negro citizens public library service, and to learn the techniques and procedures that were followed in some Southern communities in order for Negroes to secure some type of library service. These studies revealed, as did Gleason, that only four of the ten states concerned mentioned the Negro in their library laws. Library service for Negroes was considered by only one of the 15 cities where the "white" public library was opened. The range of from two to 35 years was the span of time involved in the opening of the main segregated libraries and the provision of some kind of library service for Negroes.¹

Prior to the passage of the Library Services Act in 1956, Alabama had done very little in the development of public library service. Except for two other states, Alabama spent less per capita on libraries than any other state in the nation. Adequate service was rare except in some larger towns and cities.² Most public libraries in Alabama were racially segregated. Although some Negroes were permitted to borrow materials from the main library through inter-branch loans, most Negroes were never allowed to browse through the primary

¹Virginia Lacy Jones, "How Long, Oh, How Long?" Library Journal, LXXXVII, (December 15, 1962), 2504-2505.

²Hawthorne Daniel, Public Libraries for Everyone (New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1961), pp. 115-116.

collections and never knew of the existence of many books which their tax money helped to buy and which were freely used by white citizens.¹

Like other states, Alabama has begun to meet the demands for complete integration for her citizens. Direct action was initiated in November, 1961, after attempts which were spread over several years to persuade Mobile's library board to open the main library to Negroes. On November 13, 1961, the chairman of the Mobile Library Board outlined a policy which permitted use by Negroes of the main library's reference and loan facilities, thus making this the first public library to be integrated in the state.²

On March 15, 1962, a group of Negroes tried unsuccessfully to integrate the main library in Montgomery, Alabama. This was the first attempt ever made to break racial barriers at this library since it was founded in 1898.³ In April, 1962, Robert Lee Cobb, a Negro teenager, filed a segregation complaint against the Montgomery Public Library. Following a hearing on July 24, 1962, the city officials were ordered by

¹Estes Rice, "Segregated Libraries," Library Journal, LXXXV (December 15, 1960), 4418-4421.

²"Alabama Library Serves Negroes," Wilson Library Bulletin, XXXVI (March, 1962), 504.

³"Read-In at Montgomery," Wilson Library Bulletin, XXXVI (March, 1962), 504.

Judge Frank M. Johnson, of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, to desegregate the library. At first, the officials considered closing the library, but later they decided to carry out the court order but to remove also all the chairs and tables from the reading rooms on August 8, 1962. The furniture was kept out of the reading rooms only a short time before it was placed back and both races were permitted to use the main library.¹

Socio-economic Picture of Montgomery

The city of Montgomery, the capitol of Alabama since 1846 and the county seat of Montgomery County, is located on the banks of the Alabama River in the central part of the state. It was founded in 1819 and chartered in 1837. This city was also the first capitol of the Confederacy.²

As a result of the development of the cotton industry in the South, which included Alabama, Montgomery began to prosper in 1870. Montgomery is proud of the fact that the first cotton mill in the South was established there. Maxwell Field, the world's largest air university, is presently located on the site in Montgomery where the Wright Brothers' Flight

¹"Last April," Wilson Library Bulletin, XXXVI (September, 1962), 25.

²Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, "Montgomery, Alabama," (Montgomery, Alabama, 1962), [Typewritten], 1-4.

School once stood. More than 200 industries manufacture a variety of products in Montgomery.¹

The mass communications media in the city include: two daily newspapers, the Montgomery Advertiser, and the Alabama Journal; six radio stations and four television stations. There are many cultural and educational institutions within the city. A variety of religious faiths are represented by more than 100 churches. The state capitol building and the first White House of the Confederacy form the nucleus of the city. Thirty-one elementary schools, nine junior and senior high and seven combined elementary junior and senior high schools are located in the city. The following colleges are found in Montgomery: Huntington College, Alabama State College, University of Alabama--Montgomery Center, and Alabama Christian College. The libraries which are located in the city include: The Alabama Public Library, Service Division Library, the Montgomery Public Library, the State Department of Archives and History Library, and the Montgomery County Library.²

Population.--The total population of Montgomery, according to the United States Census for 1960, is 169,210.³

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.

³United States Bureau of the Census. Eighteenth Census of the United States: 1960 Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics, Alabama (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1960), II, 2-155, 2-175.

There are 64,576 Negroes living in the city which make up 34.3 per cent of the total population.

Educational status.--The United States Census shows that there were 42,993 pupils enrolled in the schools of Montgomery in 1960. Of the 8,803 persons who had completed only the fourth grade, 7,267, or 82.6 per cent, were Negroes and 2,468 or 37.3 per cent of the 6,667 persons who had completed eighth grade were Negroes. There is a total of 21,363

TABLE 1

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE TOTAL AND NEGRO
POPULATION OF MONTGOMERY, 1960^a

Years of Schooling Completed	Number		Per Cent Negro
	Total	Negro	
Elementary: 1 to 4 years	8,803	7,267	82.6
5 to 6 years	8,781	5,662	64.5
7 years	4,389	2,067	48.1
8 years	6,667	2,486	37.3
High School: 1 to 3 years	16,534	4,622	28.0
4 years	21,263	2,779	1.3
College: 1 to 3 years	8,770	1,008	11.5
4 years or more	8,542	1,474	17.2
Median Number of School Years Completed	11.1	6.9	..

^aCalculated from United States Bureau of the Census, Eighteenth Census of the United States 1960, Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics, Alabama (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1960) II, 174.

persons who have finished four years of high school, and of this number, only 2,779 or 1.3 per cent were Negroes. The median school years completed by Negroes was 6.9 which is four years lower than that of the total population (see Table 1).¹

Occupational status.--The occupations of the people in Montgomery, Alabama, vary from professional, technical and

TABLE 2
MAJOR OCCUPATIONS IN MONTGOMERY BY RACE, 1960^b

Occupations	Number		Per Cent Negro
	Total	Negro	
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	6,583	1,394	21.0
Managers, Officials and Proprietors	5,499	236	4.3
Clerical and Kindred Workers	9,150	496	5.4
Sales Workers	4,556	266	5.8
Craftsman, Foreman and Kindred Workers	5,836	1,561	26.5
Operatives and Kindred Workers	6,775	3,328	49.1
Private Household Workers	5,550	5,243	94.6
Service Workers Except Private Household	6,111	3,837	62.8
Farm Laborers and Foreman	3,049	922	31.0
Occupations not Reported	1.390	418	30.8

^bCalculated from United States Bureau of the Census, Eighteenth Census of the United States 1960, Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics, Alabama (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1960) II, 171.

¹Ibid., 2-159, 2-174.

kindred workers to farm laborers and service workers. There was a total of 6,583 professional, technical and kindred workers in Montgomery and of this number 1,394 or 21.0 per cent were Negroes. The Negro workers constituted 94.6 per cent or 5,243 of the 5,550 private household workers. Of the 6,111 service workers, 3,837 or 62.8 per cent were Negroes. Only 236 or 4.3 per cent of the 5,499 managers, officials and proprietors in Montgomery were Negroes. Of the total number of 9,150 clerical and kindred workers in the city, 496 or 5.4 per cent were Negroes (see Table 2).¹

Family incomes.--The family incomes in Montgomery ranged

TABLE 3
INCOMES OF FAMILIES IN MONTGOMERY, 1959^c

Family Income	Number of Families		Per Cent Negro
	Total	Negro	
Under \$1,000	3,247	2,512	77.5
\$ 1,000 to \$1,999	4,486	3,397	75.7
2,000 to 2,999	4,672	2,940	62.9
3,000 to 3,999	4,368	1,653	37.8
4,000 to 4,999	4,043	1,012	25.0
5,000 to 5,999	3,880	509	13.1
6,000 to 6,999	3,153	326	10.3
7,000 to 7,999	2,866	206	7.2
8,000 to 8,999	2,332	151	6.5
9,000 to 9,999	1,676	70	4.1
10,000 and over	3,622	126	3.5

^cCalculated from United States Bureau of the Census, Eighteenth Census of the United States 1960, Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics, Alabama (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1960) II, 171.

¹Ibid., 2-163, 2-178.

from less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 and over. Of the 3,247 families who earned under \$1,000, the Negro families constituted 2,515, or 77.5 per cent. The total number of families earning from \$1,000 to \$1,999 was 4,486, and of this number, 3,397 or 75.7 per cent were Negro families and 2,940 or 62.9 per cent of the total number of families earning from \$2,000 to \$2,999 were Negro. Of the 4,368 families earning from \$3,000 to \$3,999, Negroes were represented by 1,635 or 37.8 per cent (see Table 3).¹

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this study was twofold: (1) To bring together pertinent materials relative to the history and development of the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library which was designed solely for the Negro population of Montgomery, Alabama; and, (2) To appraise its present status. This study concerns the following areas: Administrative organization, financial support, the materials collection, use, services, quarters, and equipment.

Methodology

The investigation attempted to secure an accurate picture of the history, development, and present status of the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library through the use of personal

¹Ibid., 2-178, 2-171.

interviews with the librarian, Mrs. Bertha Pleasant Williams and the following local citizens who were instrumental in the development of the branch for Negroes: Rev. Ralph L. Daley, retired Presiding Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Mrs. Zenobia M. Johnson, past President of the City Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. Wilhemia McClain Walker, Principal of the McDavid Elementary School; Mrs. Alice Martin, Civic Worker; Rev. G. Franklin Lewis, Pastor of the Congregational Church and Chairman of the Friends of the Library Organization. Library reports, personal records, newspapers, books, magazines and statutes were examined also in an effort to collect documentary data and facts relative to the birth and growth of the branch. The socio-economic pattern of the Negro population was secured from data found in the United States Census.¹

¹United States Bureau of the Census, Eighteenth Census of the United States: 1960 Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics, Alabama, op. cit.

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF THE CLEVELAND AVENUE

BRANCH LIBRARY

Legislative Provisions

The county and municipal libraries in the state are governed by the State of Alabama Code, which allows cities and counties to establish libraries and to support them through the use of public funds.¹ Each library is governed and supervised by a library board composed of five members who are appointed by the governing body of the county or municipality. The board members serve on an alternating basis without pay. The libraries have the power and authority to control funds to purchase books and equipment and to make library materials accessible to all citizens in the cities and counties through the provision of a system of library service.²

Cities and counties may consolidate libraries whenever it is necessary in order to provide or improve library service for the citizens. To carry forward the library program,

¹Alabama, State of Alabama, 1940 Code, Title 55, Article 4, Section 285, (1920) 146; (1939) 350.

²Ibid., (1919), 1124; (1939) 351-352.

the boards of these libraries have the power to cooperate with all state and federal agencies. The Department of Archives and History has the necessary legal power to encourage the establishment of consolidated or joint libraries, give free advice and counsel on organization, building, staff, book purchase, coordination and affiliation of schools and other libraries.¹ The goals and standards for the public libraries in Alabama, as approved by the Executive Board of the Alabama Public Library Service, are based upon the recommendations of the American Library Association.²

The Montgomery Public Library

The first available library service for the white people of Montgomery was a subscription library which was opened in a room on the second floor of an office building on Dexter Avenue in 1899, with Mrs. Laura Elmore as director. From the subscription library the Carnegie Public Library evolved and its building opened on Perry Street in 1904 under the auspices of the Montgomery Library Association. The main library is currently located at 445 South Lawrence Street, and was occupied

¹Ibid.

²Alabama Public Library Service, Goals and Standards for Public Libraries in Alabama, February 8, 1962 (Typewritten).

in 1960.¹

The Montgomery Library Association was organized for the purpose of providing library service only for the white population until 1948. During the year of 1948-1949 this organization began providing library service for Negroes and in April 1949 the city started supporting the public libraries of Montgomery, which included the Negro branch.²

The full governing powers of the Montgomery Public Library System are vested in a five-man board of trustees by an act passed by the legislature of the state of Alabama. The board bases its policies on the Library Constitution of 1898 and its subsequent by-laws. This constitution was drawn up by the local citizens who participated in developing the subscription library. Board members are selected for a four-year term by the City Commission of Montgomery.³

The library staff, in 1962, included 28 professional persons and two non-professionals. Of these, 23 professional and one non-professional worked at the main library. Three professional and one non-professional were employed at the

¹Montgomery Public Library, Sixty-Second Annual Report of the Montgomery Public Library, 1961, p. 25.

²Interview, Mrs. Bertha Pleasant Williams, Librarian, Cleveland Avenue Branch Library, May 10, 1963.

³Montgomery Public Library, Sixty-Third Annual Report of the Montgomery Public Library, 1962, p. 6.

branch, and two professional persons worked on the bookmobile.¹

The library's budget has grown from \$3,500 in 1904 to \$73,816 in 1962. Gifts are accepted by the library through special book funds, the Bernard Lobman Memorial Fund, Friends of the Library, and other organizations and donors. The library's holdings include 93,721 books, 175 magazine subscriptions, 4,700 pamphlets (estimated), 411 phonograph records, and 25 paintings.²

The library sponsors a series of community programs as a means of providing intellectual growth for the citizens and gaining publicity. Among them are: weekly "Library News" articles in the local newspapers, including the bookmobile schedules; National Library Week activities, the donations of discarded books to local charitable organizations; and the sponsorship of National Poetry Day in Montgomery with a program in the city's Museum Auditorium.³

The library offers general reference and circulation service to adults and services to children and young people through its children's department. It has one branch located on Cleveland Avenue at Early Street, which was designed to

¹Ibid.

²Ibid., p. 23.

³Ibid., p. 7.

serve Negroes until 1962 when the services of the library were racially integrated. The library owns one bookmobile which serves only white people.¹

Beginning of the Cleveland Avenue
Branch Library

The Negro people of Montgomery, Alabama were without public library service until 1942. It was during this year that Reverend Ralph A. Daly, then pastor of the Parks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was located in the Greater Washington Park area of the city, publicly expressed concern and the need for library service for Negroes. In order to meet this need, Reverend Daly decided to develop a library in his church. The area used for the library was a corner of a room estimated to be about six by 12 feet.²

With the assistance of Reverend M. L. Pace, who was at that time a Boy Scout executive in the city, Reverend Daly made preparations for the library. This included building shelves and providing tables and chairs to seat approximately 12 people.³

Reverend Daly solicited the aid of local citizens for

¹Ibid., p. 32.

²The California Voice, January 13, 1960, p. 1.

³Ibid.

the purpose of securing books and periodicals for the library. Mrs. Nellie L. Glass, who was at that time the director of the Montgomery Public Library, contributed approximately 50 books and made provisions for Reverend Daly to meet with the Montgomery Library Association, which was the governing body of the public library at that time. Mrs. Margaret Booth, then principal of the Margaret Booth School, donated \$100 to the library. The late Attorney Whiting contributed the works of James Truslow Adams and a six volume set of Abraham Lincoln by Carl Sandburg. The members of the Negro churches also donated books. The Women's Missionary Society of the Dexter Avenue Methodist Church contributed \$40.00 to be used for purchasing books. There was a total of 300 books and approximately 40 magazines in the library's collection while it was located in the church. Juliette Freeman and Manetta Hazzard, who at that time were teenagers, acted as volunteer librarians during the time the library was in the church.¹

After six years, in 1948, the library had outgrown its space in the church; and it was necessary for Reverend Daly to find a larger place. He contacted Mrs. Zenobia M. Johnson, then President of the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, concerning his need. Mrs. Johnson said that at the

¹Interview with Reverend Ralph A. Daly, Founder of the Union Street Branch Library and Chairman of the first Library Committee, May 13, 1963.

time when Reverend Daly called to her attention the need for more space, the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs had purchased a 17-room building located on Union Street, which was to be used as a day nursery for underprivileged children, a library, a meeting place for the Girl Scouts, and the YMCA youth. This building provided the opportunity for the realization of their plan to accommodate the library as well as to provide an opportunity for the fulfillment of Reverend Daly's desire for library service for the Negro community.¹

In an effort to carry the library project forward, a library committee was formed. Reverend Daly served as the chairman and its members were: M. L. Pace, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Zenobia M. Johnson, Mrs. Wilhemia M. Walker, Mrs. Alice Martin, Reverend W. D. Vaughn, Rufus Lewis and L. M. Arrington.²

In order to secure more aid for the project, the committee met with the Montgomery Library Association Board, of which Judge Walter B. Jones was chairman, and Bernard Lobman, who later became chairman, was a member.³ The Board asked Reverend Daly for a briefing on the progress and present status

¹Interview with Mrs. Zenobia Johnson, Library Committee Member, Union Street Branch Library, May 24, 1963.

²Montgomery Advertiser, April 6, 1948, p. 8.

³Interview with Mrs. Bertha Pleasant Williams, op. cit., May 10, 1963.

of the Negro library. He told the story of how the library was started in his church and how the collection had outgrown the space provided for it in his church. The Montgomery Library Association Board told the group that in order for the Association to aid in the development of the project it would be necessary to secure the services of a trained librarian. The Board members apparently thought that this would be an impossible task and thus they would not have to help with the program.¹

Fortunately, Mrs. Bertha Pleasant Williams was completing her work for a degree in Library Service at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia, and the Negro committee, feeling certain that it could secure her services, submitted her name for the position.² The committee also made it clear to the Board that it would do everything to get the cooperation of the local citizens in this effort.³

The Board of the Montgomery Library Association agreed to help with the Negro library by paying the salary of the librarian and donating to it some books, periodicals and furniture. Mrs. Williams accepted the position in 1948 and

¹Daly, op. cit.

²Interview with Mrs. Wilhemina Walker, Library Committee Member, May 15, 1963.

³Interview with Mrs. Alice Martin, Library Committee Member, May 28, 1963.

in 1949 the city took full control of this library and made it a branch of the public library.¹

The Union Street Branch Library, 1948-1960

The Union Street Branch Library, out of which the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library grew, was located at 321 South Union Street. It was opened formally on December 8, 1948, with a public program and a tour of the facilities. It occupied two rooms in the Community House, which was owned by the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

As has been mentioned already, the governing body of the Union Street Branch Library was the Montgomery Library Association from 1948 until 1949 when it was taken over by the city and became a branch of the public library.

The Negroes are not represented on the City Library Board. Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, the branch librarian, meets with the director of the main library two or three times a year, at which times she makes reports concerning the progress and needs of the library.² The Friends of the Library, a voluntary organization composed of local Negro citizens, has been instrumental in aiding the Negro branch library in its efforts to serve the citizens of the community. Reverend Daly

¹Williams, op. cit.

²Ibid.

was the first president of the Friends group and the current president is Reverend G. Franklin Lewis.¹

Staff.--The branch library staff initially consisted of the one full-time librarian, Mrs. Bertha P. Williams. She was aided by the Mrs. Annie Ruth Anderson Taylor who volunteered part-time service for two years. Mrs. Taylor is a college graduate with a minor in library science. Miss Annie Judkins, whose educational background is not known, served as a clerk-typist from 1951 to 1956. Part-time pages have been employed since 1949. Mrs. Teresa Anderson Temple, a college graduate with a minor in library science, was originally employed as a page in 1953. She still works in the branch, and her position has been changed to assistant to the librarian.

Financial support.--The Union Street Branch Library was supported, to begin with, by the local churches, The Friends of the Library, the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and the Montgomery Library Board, which later became the City Library Board. The City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs provided the space for the library. The Friends of the Library and the local churches provided books and funds for the purchase of other items which were needed, and the Montgomery Library Board paid the salary of the librarian, provided

¹Interview with Reverend G. Franklin Lewis, President of the Friends of the Library Organization, May 28, 1963.

furniture, books and periodicals for the library's collection for the year of 1948-49.

In April, 1949, when the Negro library became a branch, an annual budget which included an appropriation for salary only was provided. The budget of \$2,400 remained the same for two years. It was not until the 1950-1951 year that a stipulated amount for salaries, books, supplies and telephone were made available. The miscellaneous fund was provided for the first time in 1951-1952. The \$2,400 provided for salaries for the first two years was provided for the librarian only, and a part-time worker gave free service for this period. Provision for a salary for the part-time worker was made in 1950-1951. For three years the amount of money designated for salaries was static when a \$100 increase became available with the addition of another part-time worker on the staff. During the 1953-54 year a second full-time position was created and one part-time position was removed. At this time the salary budget jumped to \$6,906 where it was to remain for five years before another small increase occurred.

The book budget has been consistently low. Over a ten-year period from 1950 to 1960 it ranged from a low of \$903 to \$1,745. During the same period the total budget ranged from \$6,944.72 to \$9,352.56 (see Table 4).

TABLE 4

UNION STREET BRANCH LIBRARY BUDGET, 1948-1960^{*}

Year	Staff		Salaries	Books	Supplies	Tele- phone	Miscel- laneous	Total
	Full Time	Part Time						
1948-49	1	1**	\$2,400.00	\$..	\$..	\$..	\$..	\$2,400.00
1949-50	1	1**	2,400.00
1950-51	1	1	5,806.00	1,184.51	76.39	60.50	..	7,127.40
1951-52	1	1	5,806.00	1,393.38	109.77	78.46	36.00	7,423.61
1952-53	1	1	5,806.00	903.13	178.26	57.33	..	6,944.72
1953-54	1	2	5,906.00	1,140.20	76.45	78.33	15.00	7,215.98
1954-55	2	1	6,906.00	1,216.45	53.86	84.00	1.91	8,262.22
1955-56	2	1	6,906.00	1,546.25	105.00	81.67	24.00	7,662.82
1956-57	2	1	6,906.00	1,703.74	71.51	86.50	25.00	8,892.75
1957-58	2	1	6,906.00	1,726.03	131.13	84.00	29.25	8,776.41
1958-59	2	1	6,906.00	1,377.31	98.51	84.00	25.00	8,490.82
1959-60	2	1	7,381.88	1,745.00	125.00	84.00	16.68	9,352.56

*Taken from Annual Reports of Union Street Branch Library, 1948-1960.

**Without pay.

Holdings--The branch library's collection included 1,700 books, subscriptions to 15 periodicals and two newspapers in 1948. According to annual reports, a total of 10,286 books had been added to the collection during the following ten years. Of the number, 4,938 were children's books

TABLE 5

YEARLY ADDITIONS TO THE BOOK COLLECTION OF
THE UNION STREET BRANCH LIBRARY, 1948-1960*

Year	Number of Books		Total
	Children's	Adults	
1948-1949
1949-1950	165	861	1,026
1950-1951	1,495	1,580	3,075
1951-1952	455	497	952
1952-1953	449	216	665
1953-1954	611	457	1,068
1954-1955	326	169	495
1955-1956	357	364	721
1956-1957	324	342	667
1957-1958	371	349	720
1958-1959	277	238	515
1959-1960	108	276	384
Total	4,938	5,348	10,286

*Taken from Annual Reports of Union Street Branch Library.

and 5,348 were for adults. The largest number of books purchased by the library during a single period was 3,075 in 1950-1951 with the next highest number being 1,068 purchased in 1953-1954 and 1,026 purchased in 1949-1950. During the 1959-1960 year only 384 books were added (see Table 5).

Records were not available in regard to the number of books in the library according to subject. The periodical subscriptions ranged from 15 in 1948 to 46 twelve years later. Of the 46 periodicals to which the library subscribed, 10 were for children exclusively. Among the types of available periodicals were the general or useful ones such as Good Housekeeping, Better Homes and Gardens, Parents' Magazine and The P. T. A. Magazine. The popular publications included Boys' Life, Ebony, Life, and Time. Other journals included the Library Journal, Phylon, Popular Science, and The Instructor. The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature was the only index to periodical literature owned.

Registered borrowers and circulation.--The branch's registration files were weeded annually and the total number of registered borrowers for the Union Street Branch Library reflected growth with only slight declines. There always has been, with the exception of one year, a few more registered adults than children. The percentage of children for this period ranged between 41 and 48.2 while the percentage for

TABLE 6

UNION STREET BRANCH LIBRARY REGISTERED
BORROWERS, 1948-1960*

Year	Total	Children	Per Cent	Adult	Per Cent
1948-19	629	259	41.0	370	59.0
1949-50	480	201	42.0	279	58.0
1950-51	259	140	54.0	119	46.0
1951-52	1998	931	46.6	1067	53.4
1952-53	2289	1087	47.4	1202	52.6
1953-54	2585	1211	46.8	1374	53.2
1954-55	2869	1358	47.25	1511	52.75
1955-56	3100	1536	49.5	1564	50.5
1956-57	2860	1335	46.7	1525	53.3
1957-58	3313	1556	47.0	1757	53.0
1958-59	2750	1323	48.2	1427	51.8
1959-60	4283	2063	48.2	2220	51.8

*Taken from Annual Reports of Union Street Branch Library, 1948-1960.

adults ranged between 46.0 and 59.0 (see Table 6).

Despite the fact that the largest percentage of registered borrowers was adults, the records show that 83 per cent of the total number of books circulated in 1948-1949 were children's books while only 17 per cent were for adults. The circulation of books for children continued, through the years, to be larger than that of adults. The lowest percentage of circulation for children during the period from 1948 to 1960 was 58.2, while the lowest for adults was 17.0 (see Table 7).¹

Services.--The branch library had both a children's and an adult department. The library was open Monday through Friday from 12:00 noon until 8:00 P.M. during the months of September through May, from 1948 to 1960. The hours were altered during the summer months of June, July and August when the library was open Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. and on Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. It was closed on Sundays.²

Service to children.--Working with children is one of the most important phases of library service. The library sponsored reading programs during the summer months for children four to 14 years of age. The story hours were started

¹Circulation Records of Union Street Branch Library, 1948-1960.

²Bertha P. Williams, "Branch Library Service Annual Brochure," Montgomery, Alabama, 1960, (Typewritten), p. 1.

TABLE 7

THE UNION STREET BRANCH LIBRARY BOOK CIRCULATION
REPORT, 1948-1960*

Year	Total	Children's Book Circulation		Adult Book Circulation	
		Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
1948-49	12,998	10,793	83.0	2,205	17.0
1949-50	19,925	14,777	74.1	5,148	25.9
1950-51	20,751	13,361	64.5	7,390	35.5
1951-52	22,926	13,568	59.0	9,358	41.0
1952-53	24,214	14,291	58.8	9,923	41.2
1953-54	16,435	10,287	62.5	6,148	37.5
1954-55	14,614	9,059	62.0	5,555	38.0
1955-56	15,525	9,605	62.0	5,920	38.0
1956-57	15,348	8,939	58.2	6,409	41.8
1957-58	20,889	12,531	60.0	8,358	40.0
1958-59	20,216	12,114	60.0	8,102	40.0
1959-60	29,036	17,083	58.8	11,960	41.2

*Taken from the Circulation Records of Union Street Branch Library, 1948-60.

in 1948 by Mrs. Bertha P. Williams as a means of stimulating the use of the library and providing enriching experiences for children. The stories were told sometimes by the librarian and at other times by local citizens. The attendance, at a given time, varied from as many as 40 children to as few as 10. Vacation reading clubs were organized for the older boys and girls from eight to 14 years of age in 1948. The clubs were organized for three different age groups: those from eight to 10 years old, those from 10 to 12 and from 12 to 14. The clubs met once per week during the summer months. The attendance ranged from 100 to as few as 20. Certificates were given to all members who read as many as 10 books and who reported on them in writing. The children were assisted in writing these reports by the librarian and in some instances by their parents.¹

The branch library, in its efforts to interest children in reading, also worked with the schools from 1948 to 1960. Each year the librarian would visit the Negro elementary and high schools and give book talks or reviews to the entire student body or to class groups. The book talks and reviews would be on popular books, both fiction and non-fiction. During National Book Week, between the years of 1948 to 1960

¹Interview with Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, Librarian, March 27, 1963.

the librarian conducted story hours in the library for second and third grade children. Buses were used to transport pupils from and back to school at the expense of the Library Board. The sixth grade pupils were transported to the library in the same manner for the purpose of receiving information on how to use the library. These pupils were given handbooks which were compiled by the branch library staff to help them use the library when they entered high school in 1958. In 1959 and 1960 the librarian served as guest speaker at some of the schools during National Library Week.¹

Service to adults.--The number of books which could be borrowed at one time by an adult depended upon the needs of the client, the size of the collection and the demand. Vacation privileges were extended to adult borrowers and all books except the popular ones could be borrowed for a period of six weeks to three months. Books which were not in demand could be renewed either in the library or by telephone.

The programs which were sponsored by and for adults included book exhibits, book reviews, the American Heritage programs and lectures. The book exhibits were held once every two or three years in the branch's reading rooms and remained for one month. The exhibits were designed to stimulate reading interest on the part of the clients. Books for the

¹Ibid.

exhibits were furnished by the Alabama Public Service Division and they covered a wide range of subject matter. The themes for the exhibits were selected by the librarian. The 1954 exhibit theme was "Books Open Doors." At this time Miss Willetta McGinty, Supervisor of the Alabama State College Nursery School, aided in the publicity of this project. Each of these exhibits contained between 50 and 100 books. The attendance of spectators ranged from 25 to 75 persons.

The American Heritage programs were designed to help the people become better informed and to gain awareness of their responsibilities as citizens in a democracy. These programs were under the auspices of the American Library Association and the Union Street Branch. The project began in January, 1953, and lasted two years. Membership was open to all interested persons, and an average of 25 persons participated.¹ It met on the first and third Tuesday nights of each month. Among the leaders of the programs were: Mrs. Dorothy Gibbs, a local school teacher; Mrs. Lucile O. Green, the librarian of Carver High School, and Reverend G. Franklin Lewis.

Monthly book reviews were presented by citizens of the community for the benefit of the general public in the library,

¹Ibid.

beginning in 1948. Among the reviewers were: Mrs. Earl Anderson, Librarian, Booker Washington High School; Mr. Beverly T. Booth, Reference Librarian, Alabama State College; Mrs. Urula Gertrude Grayson, a social worker; Mrs. Willease Simpson, Secretary-Treasurer, Alabama State College; and, Mrs. Lucious W. Smiley, Librarian, Alabama State High School.¹

Quarters and equipment.--The library was housed in two small rooms, in the Community House on Union Street, from 1948 to 1960. These rooms were located on the left side of the building just inside of the front entrance. The room used for adults was eight by 10 feet. It had two large windows and two doors, one which led to the children's room and the other to the outside. The floor was of pine wood, and the lighting fixtures were recessed in the ceiling. The shelving was built around the walls. The card catalog, the circulation desk, a vertical file cabinet, the librarian's desk and telephone were also located in this room. Two oak tables with six matching chairs at each were located in this small room.

The nine by 12-foot room used for the children was located behind the adult room, which had four large windows and one door which led to the outside and a small closet used for storage. The floor was also of pine, and the lights were

¹Ibid.

recessed in the ceiling. The limited shelving was built around the walls of the room. There were six small tables and 30 chairs in this room. Both rooms were painted in pastel colors. The rest room facilities were located just back of these two rooms. No space was provided for the librarians' office nor a workroom. Gas heaters were used to heat the rooms.

The equipment for the library included the following items: one card catalog, one newspaper rack, two magazine racks, one vertical file, one 16-millimeter motion picture projector, one globe and one record player.¹

In 1960 these two rooms ceased to be used as a branch, when the new Cleveland Avenue Branch building was opened.

Cleveland Avenue Branch Library, 1960-1963

The Cleveland Avenue Branch Library is an outgrowth of the Union Street Branch Library. It is located on Cleveland Avenue at Early Street. It was erected in 1960 for the purpose of serving exclusively the Negro population of Montgomery; however, after it was dedicated the City of Montgomery was ordered by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to open its main library to all citizens, in 1962.

Staff.--The staff of the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library

¹Ibid.

remains as it was when it was on Union Street, with the same professional librarian and two non-professional workers.

Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, a graduate of Atlanta University, has been the branch librarian since 1948. Her duties include the general supervision of the branch, selecting books, cataloging gift books, planning activities for the library, and preparing reports. The other two members of the staff are the two former pages, Mrs. Annie Ruth Taylor, a part-time clerk, and Mrs. Theresa Temple who is assistant librarian. Mrs. Temple does the circulation work and spends most of her time at the circulation desk. She began working in the library in 1954. Miss W. Gillian was employed as a page during the 1961-62 year. During this time a janitor was also hired.

Budget.--The working budget for the branch for the 1960-1961 year was \$11,277.00 and it was increased the following year to \$12,499.00. The amount for 1962-63 was decreased to \$11,733.00. The telephone and miscellaneous items of the budget were the same for each of the three years, \$95.00 and \$25.00, respectively. The amount provided for salaries was \$8,337.00 in 1960-61 and was increased to \$9,979.00, but was cut to \$8,338.00 in 1962-1963. The cut back was due to the fact that a part-time page who was employed the year before had given up the position and had not been replaced. The book budget increased from \$1,745.00 in 1960-1961 to \$2,500.00 in

TABLE 8
CLEVELAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY
BUDGET, 1960-1963*

Year	Staff		Salaries	Books	Periodicals	Binding	Supplies	Telephone	Miscellaneous	Total
	Part-Time	Full-Time								
1960-1961	2	1	\$8,737	\$1,745	\$225	\$200	\$125	\$95	\$25	\$11,277
1961-1962	2	2	9,979	1,700	300	250	150	95	25	12,499
1962-1963	2	1	8,388	2,500	325	250	150	95	25	11,733

*Montgomery Public Library, Annual Reports of the Montgomery Public Library, 1961-1963.

1962-1963 (see Table 8).

The Friends of the Library voluntary group provided some gifts such as furniture and draperies for the conference room and an auto page which is located in the street in front of the library. A lighted globe was given by a local club and a huge potted plant was donated by a friend.¹

Holdings.--The Cleveland Avenue Branch Library opened with 9,756 books on its shelves in contrast to the 4,283 that were in the old quarters. At the end of three years the collection had increased to 11,887 books. The total number of children's books added to the collection increased from 171 to 508 after one year, but those acquisitions decreased to 333 during the following year. A total of 3,126 books were incorporated during this period and 2,114 or 67.4 per cent were adult books (see Table 9).

By June of 1963 the book collection of this branch library consisted of 11,887 books according to its shelf list. Of this number 5,856 or 49.3 per cent were children's books and 5,337 or 44.9 per cent were for adults. Included also, but not classed according to age groups, were 694 reference books or 5.8 per cent of the total collection (see Table 10).²

¹Martin, op. cit., pp. 28, 33.

²Shelf List of the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library.

TABLE 9

HOLDINGS AND ADDITIONS TO THE CLEVELAND AVENUE
BRANCH LIBRARY, 1960-1963*

Year	Total Number of Books in Library	Number Books Added		Total
		Children's Books	Adult Books	
1960-1961	9,756	171	445	616
1961-1962	10,706	508	656	1,164
1962-1963	11,787	333	1,013	1,346
Total	..	1,012	2,114	3,126

*Taken from Annual Reports of the Montgomery Public Library, 1961-1963.

The 46 periodical subscriptions were the same as they had been for the Union Street Branch.

TABLE 10
TYPES OF BOOKS IN THE CLEVELAND
AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

Book Collection		
Types	Number	Per Cent
Juvenile		
Easy Books	1,700	29.0
Fiction	1,900	32.5
Non Fiction	2,256	38.5
Total	5,856	49.3
Adult		
Fiction	2,000	37.5
Non Fiction	3,337	62.5
Total	5,337	44.9
Reference	694	5.8
Total	11,887	100.0

Registered borrowers and circulation.--A list of registered borrowers of the Cleveland Avenue Branch Library is kept in a ledger. Each individual is given a card with a number which he keeps for a period of five years. All clients are required to re-register every five years. The letter "J" precedes each number given a child. The branch has shown

a steady decline in the number of new registered borrowers in the past three years. During its first year of operation 1,001 borrowers' cards were issued. Of this number 458 or 45.75 per cent were to children and 543 or 54.25 per cent were to adults. During the second year 739 persons registered and a slightly larger proportion of these were children. This pattern was followed during the third year of 1962-1963, when 720 persons registered and of these 394 or 54 per cent were children and 326 or 46 per cent were adults (see Table 11).

TABLE 11

CLEVELAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY REGISTERED
BORROWERS, 1960-1963

Year	Children		Adults		Total
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	
1960-1961	458	45.75	543	54.25	1001
1961-1962	392	53.00	347	47.00	739
1962-1963	394	54.00	326	46.00	720

More books were circulated from the Cleveland Branch than from the former branch, and the proportion of children's books continued to be greater than that for adults. During the first year, 1960-1961, more adult books circulated percentage wise than ever before or since when 15,159 or 43.5 per cent of the total circulation of 34,802 was adult. The

second year witnessed an increase in the total circulation and a slight decrease was noted for third year (see Table 12).

TABLE 12

CLEVELAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY
BOOK CIRCULATION, 1960-1963*

Year	Children		Adults		Total
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	
1960-1961	19,643	56.5	15,159	43.5	34,802
1961-1962	23,715	60.0	15,826	40.0	39,541
1962-1963	22,189	58.5	15,776	41.5	37,965

*Taken from Annual Reports of the Montgomery Public Library, 1961-1963.

Services.--The Cleveland Avenue Branch Library offers library service currently to all citizens of Montgomery regardless of race, color, or creed. It has a children's, a young adult, and an adult department and is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.¹

Services to children.--The children are permitted to take out a maximum of six books at a time. As in its early history, the library continues to sponsor reading programs during the summer months for children. Included in its program are story hours and the vacation reading clubs.

¹Bertha P. Williams, Branch Library Service Brochure, op. cit.

Certificates are awarded to boys and girls who complete the required reading by the end of summer. These activities are attended by a minimum of 15 children and a maximum of 50 children. The library continues to work with the schools as it has done in the past. In 1961 and 1962 the library sponsored an "All Seniors Open House Week" during National Library Week. The purpose of this program was to acquaint the students with what library service offers as a profession and to encourage them to choose it as a career. Each student was given a booklet which was compiled by the branch librarian entitled "Librarianship as a Career." The students also heard lectures given by Mrs. Bertha Williams, the librarian, and Mrs. Lucile O. Green, librarian at Carver High School.¹

Services to adults.--The format of the branch's service to adults is also the same as it was formerly. The number of books to be borrowed at one time depends upon the needs of the client, the size of the collection and the demand. Vacation privileges are extended to adult users and all books except popular ones can be charged from the library for a period of from six weeks to three months. Books not in demand can be renewed by telephone. Programs sponsored for adults include: book exhibits, book reviews, and lectures. At least

¹Interview with Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, March 27, 1963, op. cit.

one book exhibit has been sponsored each year. The attendance at lectures and book reviews reached a maximum of 50 persons per program and a minimum of 15. Some of the persons who served as reviewers were: Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, branch librarian; Dr. Alfred P. Nixon, local college professor and Reverend G. Franklin Lewis, local minister and Chairman of the Friends of the Library Organization. The following persons are among those who served as lecturers: Mrs. Willie Thomas, a local school teacher; Mrs. Betty Brown, a cosmetologist; Mr. B. B. Stone, a tailor and Mr. Norman Walton, college teacher. Among the topics discussed by these lecturers were: "The Negro in Our History" and "The Struggle for Justice."¹

Quarters and equipment.--The Cleveland Avenue Branch Library is housed in an air conditioned red brick building which contains 4,618 square feet of floor space. The floors are covered with beige vinyl tile and the walls are painted in pastel colors. The building is well lighted with indirect ceiling lights. Glass paneling and windows also admit adequate natural light. The reading room is "L" shaped in design and covers 2,970 square feet of floor space.² The circulation desk, which is the control center, is located just across from

¹Ibid.

²Taken from Floor Plans of Cleveland Avenue Branch Library, 1960.

the front entrance. In this area also is the card catalog, a vertical file and a water fountain.

The children's room, to the right as one enters, contains a magazine rack which is used by all clients, a card catalog of the children's collections, and four tables with four chairs each. One section of counter top metal shelving and 16 sections of shelving around the wall are located to the right of the front entrance. The adult and young adult department is located to the left of the circulation desk. Here are found two tables with eight chairs each and two tables with four chairs each, two sections of counter top metal shelving, several pieces of lounging furniture, and an atlas rack. On the right side of the reading room there are five sections of counter top metal shelving arranged one after another. Fiction, mystery stories and the young people's collection are shelved in this area. Wall shelving around the room accommodates books arranged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme. Two book trucks are found near the circulation desk. A lighted globe, a dictionary on a stand and a small wooden book rack are placed on the counter top shelving to the right of the room.¹

The librarian's office is 11 x 13 feet and is found to

¹Williams, Branch Library Service Brochure, op. cit.

the right of the circulation desk. It contains a file cabinet, one matching desk and chair and one lounging chair. A staff rest room adjoins it. Next to the office is the work room which is 11 x 19 feet. It contains two work tables, four chairs, a duplicating machine, a storage cabinet, a waste container, mending and processing tools, a section of metal shelving and a cabinet containing the shelf list. The bookmobile loading area is located just outside of the work room.¹ A conference room, which is adjacent to the children's section, is 19 x 26 feet. It is furnished with a table and eight chairs done in mahogany finish. Here are also 45 additional chairs which may be used for larger groups. A huge potted plant stands in the picture window of this room. The public rest rooms are adjacent to the adult reading room.

¹Ibid.

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY

About one third of the population of Montgomery, Alabama is Negro. The median number of school years completed by them is 6.9 as compared to 11.1 for the total population. Most of the jobs that require little or no education and skill are held by Negroes such as private household and service workers, and the great bulk of Negro families have incomes of less than \$5,000 per year.

The purpose of this study was to tell the story of how public library service to Negroes in Montgomery, Alabama has developed. In order to gather historical data, all available primary sources such as records, reports, minutes were carefully examined. It was fortunate that some of the individuals who were active in getting library service to Negroes started in Montgomery were still living, in 1963, and they provided pertinent first-hand information.

The first library in Montgomery was a subscription library which was started in 1899. It was to evolve into the public library which until 1948 served only white patrons. The first effort to provide library service to Negroes was made

in 1942 by Reverend Ralph A. Daly, a Negro, who with the assistance of other Negro citizens provided a very limited form of library service in his church, the Parks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The room for the library was about six feet by 12 feet and could seat 12 persons, and people could get books with the help of volunteer workers after the worship hour and on some afternoons. Individuals and groups of both races donated books and small sums of money to this effort, and Reverend Daly reported that altogether there were about 300 books in the collection.

Meanwhile efforts were being made by the Negro leadership to find larger and more adequate quarters. Two rooms in a Negro owned community house on Union Street were made available six years later, in 1948. At this time a library committee was formed and Reverend Daly served as its chairman. He and other members worked diligently to get the cooperation of the white Montgomery Library Association Board and were finally successful in incorporating the Negro library as a branch of the Montgomery Public Library. Hence, in 1949, the Union Street Branch Library came into existence and these two rooms were to serve the Negro population of Montgomery until 1960.

The Union Street Branch started with a professional librarian who had received her library science degree from

Atlanta University. Her staff consisted of a volunteer college graduate who had had some undergraduate courses in library science and part-time pages who also donated their services.

The budget of the branch originally provided only the librarian's salary which was \$2,400. During the 1953-1954 year another full-time worker was employed. The book budget, when it was provided, was relatively very low and as long as the branch was on Union Street the book budget never got any higher than \$1,184 and this was for the 1950-51 year.

The collection of the branch consisted of about 1,700 books and subscriptions to 15 periodicals when it first started operation. During the following ten years about 10,000 books were acquired and there were subscriptions to 46 periodicals. There were no records available which could indicate what kinds of books these were in regard to subject matter or suitability for Negro patrons. In 1960 there were about 4,000 books in the collection.

A total of 629 persons became registered borrowers when the Union Street Branch first opened. By 1960 the number had increased to 4,283 with adults slightly outnumbering children. However, far more books which were classified as children's books were circulated. It cannot be determined how many of these books were read by adults with low reading levels.

The Union Street Branch sponsored summer reading programs and story hours for children. The librarian also gave book talks in the schools and some children were occasionally taken from school to the library by special buses. Work with adults to encourage reading seemed, for the most part, to have been neglected. Every "two or three years" the Alabama (State) Public Service Division cooperated in sponsoring book exhibits in the branch which were rather poorly attended. The librarian mentioned the fact that monthly book review programs were also held for adults. For two years an American Heritage project operated.

The activities and services of the Union Street Branch were centered around two small rooms in an old community house. The adult room was eight by 10 feet and the larger room which was nine by 12 feet was reserved for the children. These rooms were made as attractive as possible and held as many seats as could be squeezed in. In 1960 those two rooms were closed and the library service to Negroes was shifted to a new, air conditioned building on Cleveland Avenue. Here are to be found the modern facilities of a branch building with appropriate space, equipment, furnishings and other accommodations.

The staff of the Cleveland Avenue Branch was moved from Union Street consisting in 1960 of the original librarian,

Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, and two full-time Negro assistants.

More funds were made available for salaries and materials for the new branch and by 1963 there were nearly 12,000 books on its shelves and about half of these were for adults. The borrowers' registration pattern seems to continue as it did on Union Street. Circulation has increased and a larger proportion of adult books are being used. The services of the new branch indicate a continuing effort to attract children to books through reading clubs and special programs during National Library Week. For adults there have been annual book exhibits, book review programs and series of public lectures.

Due to a legal change in the administrative policy of the Montgomery Public Library which was rendered by court action, after a series of "sit-ins," the Cleveland Avenue Branch although designed originally for Negro use became technically, racially integrated, as did the whole system, in 1962. Even though there are still no Negroes on the Montgomery Public Library Board the elevation of the cultural and educational level of the Negro population of Montgomery does have something of an encouraging promise for the future. The early efforts and influences of such pioneers as Reverend R. A. Daly and his committee, should not go unheralded, nor the contributions of Mrs. Bertha P. Williams, the branch

librarian who could have enjoyed far more lucrative positions in the library profession.

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